

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security has awarded two grants totaling more than \$250,000 to the Big Sur and Spreckels volunteer fire departments.

- The Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade will receive \$202,825 for vehicle acquisition.
- The Spreckels Volunteer Fire Company will receive \$48,925 operations and safety grant.

"These grants are essential tools to allow our first responders to continue their fine work," said Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "It's encouraging that the Homeland Security is focusing more and more on our emergency personnel. They are slowly transitioning from a focus on homeland to a focus on hometown. I will work hard to ensure that process continues."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program has provided nearly \$2.2 billion to first-responder organizations around the country since 2004. Funds are used to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment and vehicles.

Operations and safety grants are used for training, equipment, fitness and health modifications to stations and facilities, while the vehicle acquisition program allows the purchase of a wide variety of emergency vehicles.

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